

Gallbladder Carcinoma Diagnosed after Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

Hyo Sang Lee, MD, Kyung Sik Kim, MD, Jin Sub Choi, MD, Sang Hoon Lee, MD¹, Woo Jung Lee, MD and Byong Ro Kim, MD

Department of Surgery, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, ¹Department of Surgery, Inha Medical College Sungnam, Inha Hospital, Sungnam, Korea

Background/Aims: Laparoscopic cholecystectomy has become popular. Occasionally, unsuspected gallbladder carcinoma is diagnosed after the operation by pathologic examination, incidentally. And even when the gallbladder carcinoma is suspected preoperatively, it is determined whether or not the additional radical operation will proceed, according to the pathologic diagnosis after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Multiple staging systems have been described, including the modified Nevin classification (Donohue et al 1990, Nevin et al 1976), the AJCC TNM staging system, and there are controversies in the surgical management of gallbladder carcinoma for each stage. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the role and the meaning of the laparoscopic cholecystectomy in the surgical management of the gallbladder carcinoma.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was made of 24 patients with gallbladder carcinoma that was confirmed by pathologic diagnosis after laparoscopic cholecystectomy in Severance Hospital between January 1993 and February 2002.

Results: Gallbladder carcinoma was found in 1.1% of the

2141 cholecystectomy specimens. Gallbladder carcinoma was suspected preoperatively in 11 patients (45.8%). The location of the lesions was the serosal side in 16 patients (66.7%), the liver bed side in 1 patient, and undetermined in 7 patients. The histologic type was adenocarcinoma in all patient, and well differentiated in 16 patients (66.7%), moderate and poorly differentiated in 8 patients (33.3%). According to the AJCC TNM staging system, there were 13 stage I (54%), 5 stage II (20.8%), 2 stage III (8.3%), 4 stage IV (16.7%). The lymph node metastasis was observed in 4 patients (16.7%). In 18 patients (75%), only laparoscopic cholecystectomies were performed, and additional radical cholecystectomies were performed in 4 patients (16.7%). The patients with stage I and II tumor were alive without recurrence except 1 follow-up loss, and there was not any port site recurrence.

Conclusion: Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is sufficient with stage I gallbladder carcinoma. It may be considered that the patient with stage II gallbladder carcinoma is closely followed without additional radical cholecystectomy after laparoscopic cholecystectomy, if properly selected. The use of vinyl bag for retrieval of specimen is recommended to avoid the port site recurrence. For advanced gallbladder carcinoma (stage III and IV), the additional radical cholecystectomy is recommended. When gallbladder cancer is suspected, an open operation should be performed with sufficient preoperative staging work-up. (Korean J HBP Surg 2002;6:73-79)

Key Words: Gallbladder carcinoma, Laparoscopic cholecystectomy

:

가
가 가

, TNM Nevin

,
가 . ,

가

가 .

1993 1 2002 2
2141
24 ,
가 ,
1. ,
2141 24
1.1% .
가 13 , 가 11 , 59 (: 38 72) (Table 1).

2.

11 (45.8%) .
5 (20.8%), 12 (50%),
가 6 (25%), 1 (4.2%)
(Table 2.)

Table 1. Age & sex distribution

Age	Male	Female
39	0	1
40 49	1	2
50 59	3	5
60 69	6	3
70	1	2
Total	11	13

(range = 38 72; mean = 59)

Table 2. Preoperative diagnosis (Findings of abdominal ultrasonography & abdominopelvic CT)

Preop. Dx.	No. of cases (%)
GB polyp	12 (50%)
GB stone	5 (21%)
GB polyp with Stone	6 (25%)
Chronic cholecystitis	1 (4%)
Total	24

3.

(serosal side) 16 (66.7%),
(liver bed side) 1 (4.2%), 가
가 7 (29.2%) (Table 3). ,
6 (25%), 12 (50%),
가 5 (20.8%), 1 (4.2%) .

4.

24 17 (70.8%)
5 mm 55 mm 10 mm .
24 , 가 가 16
(66.7%), 가 5 (20.8%), 가 가 2

Table 3. Location of lesions

Location of lesion	No. of cases
Liver bed side	1
Serosal side	16
Undetermined	7
Total	24

Table 4. Distribution of TNM stage

TNM stage	No. of cases (%)
I	13 (54%)
II	5 (21%)
III	2 (8%)
IV	4 (17%)
Total	24

Table 5. Lymph node metastasis & distant metastasis according to T stage

Depth of GB wall invasion	No. of cases (%)	N1 LN	N2 LN	Distant metastasis
Mucosa	9 (38%)			
Muscle	4 (17%)			
Subserosa	7 (29%)	1		1
Serosa	3 (13%)		1	1
Liver & Serosa	1 (4%)		1	
Total	24	1	2	2

(8.3%), 7 (38%), 4 (17%), 1 (4.2%) (T1bN0M0), 3 (radical cholecystectomy: liver resection of segment IVb & V and regional lymphadenectomy)⁸⁾ (Table 4-6).

(29%), 4 (17%), 1 (4.2%) (T2N0M0) 2 (Table 4-6).

1 (8.3%) . 4 (16.7%) 2 5 1 (T2N0M0)

가 , 1 (4.2%) 1 (T2N0M0) T2

5. 가 (Table 6, 7) , 1 (T2N0M0) 가

TNM staging , 1 13 (54%), 2 5 가

(20.8%), 3 2 (8.3%), 4 4 (16.7%) (Table 4).

1 13 T1a 9 (T1aN0M0) , 3 (T2N0M0) 가

. 1 T1b 4 (Table 4-6).

Table 6. Details of Stage I & II patients

Patient	Sex	Age	Preoperative Dx.	Operation	Operative findings	Pathology	T stage	TNM stage	*F/U Duration (months)
1	F	40	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	*LC	Polyp (20 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	5
2	M	68	GB stone	LC	Stones	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	15
3	M	50	GB polyp	LC	Polyp (6 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	16
4	F	56	GB polyp	LC	Polyp (7 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	28
5	F	72	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	LC	Polyp (30 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	28
6	F	57	GB polyp	LC	Polyp (25 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	35
7	F	46	R/o GB ca. GB polyp, GB stone	LC	Polyp (25 mm), stones	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	72
8	M	72	GB stone	LC	Stones	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	88
9	F	71	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	LC	Polyp (8 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1a	1	98
10	M	61	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	LC	Polyp (7 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1b	1	7
11	M	55	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	LC	Polyp (55 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1b	1	23 (f/u loss)
12	F	57	GB polyp	LC, *RC after 2 weeks	Polyp (5 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff. LN (0/23), Liver (free from tumor)	1b	1	57
13	M	65	R/o GB ca. GB stone	LC	Polyp (40 mm), Stones	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	1b	1	84
14	F	61	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	LC	Polyp (40 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	2	2	2
15	F	57	GB stone	LC	Stones	Adenoca. Well. Diff.	2	2	14
16	F	60	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	LC, RC (conversion)	Polyp (7 mm)	Adenoca. Well. Diff. LN (0/17), Liver (free from tumor)	2	2	40
17	M	66	GB stone	LC	Stones	Adenoca. Mod. Diff.	2	2	48
18	M	48	GB polyp	LC, RC with *BDR after 1 week	Polyp (8 mm)	Adenoca. Mod. Diff. *CDRM (+), LN (0/8), Liver (free from tumor)	2	2	74

*F/U Dur = follow-up duration; LC = laparoscopic cholecystectomy; RC = radical cholecystectomy; BDR = bile duct resection; CDRM = cystic duct resection margin

Table 7. Details of Stage III & IV patients

Patient	Sex	Age	Preoperative Dx.	Operation	Operative findings	Pathology	T	N	M	TNM stage	Postop. Tx.	*F/U Duration (months)
1	M	58	GB stone	*LC	Stones	Adenoca. Poor. Diff.	3	0	0	3		1 (f/u loss)
2	F	38	GB stone	LC, *RC with *BDR after 2 weeks	Stones	Adenoca. Uncertain Diff. *CDRM (+), LN (2/30), Liver (free from tumor)	2	1	0	3	*CTx	56
3	F	63	R/o GB ca. GB polyp	LC	Polyp (10 mm)	Adenoca. Mod. Diff.	3	2	0	4b	Oral CTx	7 (f/u loss)
4	F	54	R/o GB ca. R/o chronic cholecystitis	LC	Wall thickening	Adenoca. Mod. Diff. Liver & CBD & omentum (invasion)	4	2	0	4b	*RTx	6 (f/u loss)
5	M	66	GB polyp, GB stone	LC	Polyp (10 mm), stones	Adenoca. Mod. Diff.	2	2	1	4b	*CCRTx, RTx for *SCLN, *RFA for *LM	7
6	M	67	GB polyp, GB stone	LC	Polyp (10 mm), stones	Adenoca. Mod. Diff. Omental metastasis	3	x	1	4b	Oral CTx	8 (expired)

*LC = laparoscopic cholecystectomy; RC = radical cholecystectomy; BDR = bile duct resection; CDRM = cystic duct resection margin; CTx = chemotherapy; CCRTx = concurrent chemoradiotherapy; RTx = radiotherapy; SCLN = left supraclavicular lymph node metastasis; PFA = radiofrequency ablation; LM = liver metastasis

Table 8. Comparison of TNM & modified Nevin stage

TNM staging (AJCC, 1997, 5th ed.)					Modified Nevin staging	
	N0	N1	N2	M	I	Mucosa only
T1	I				II	Mucosa and muscular invasion
T2	II	III			III	Transmural direct liver invasion
T3					IV	Regional lymph node involvement
T4	IVA				V	Distant metastasis

Primary tumor (T)

- TX Primary tumor cannot be assessed
- T0 No evidence of primary tumor
- Tis Carcinoma in situ
- T1 Tumor invades lamina propria or muscle layer
 - T1a** Tumor invades lamina propria
 - T1b** Tumor invades muscle layer
- T2 Tumor invades the perimuscular connective tissue; no extension beyond the serosa or into liver
- T3 Tumor perforates the serosa (visceral peritoneum) or directly invades one adjacent organ, or both (extension 2cm into the liver)
- T4 Tumor extends >2 cm into the liver and/or into two or more adjacent organs (stomach, duodenum, colon, pancreas, omentum, extrahepatic bile ducts, any involvement of the liver)

Regional lymph nodes (N)

- NX Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0 No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1 Metastasis in cystic duct, pericholedochal and/or hilar lymph nodes (i.e., within the hepatoduodenal ligament)
- N2 Metastasis in peripancreatic (head only), periduodenal, periportal, celiac, and/or superior mesenteric lymph nodes

Distant metastasis (M)

- MX Distant metastasis cannot be assessed
- M0 No distant metastasis
- M1 Distant metastasis present

3 2 1 (T2N1M0) 3 4 , Nevin
 2 가 , TNM
 3 4
 6 ,
 1 (T3N0M0) 가 , TNM 가 4
 가 (Table 4, 5, 7). , Nevin 5 가 .
 4 4 , ,
 ,
 N2 가 가 가 가
 , ,
 ,
 ,
 (Table 4, 5, 7).
 6. () (Table 6, 7) , 1 100% 5
 34.1 (1 98) ,
 . 1 T lb 1 ,
 23 ,
 12 , 42.8 (Table 6). , 1
 (: 5 98) . 2 5 , T lb
 , 35.6 (: 2 74
) . 3 2 1 1 T2 39 50% 2
 , 1 56 1-3,8,9,11,13,15-17)
 . 4 2 6 , 7 가 2 가 5 1
 , 1 7 , T2 7
 , 1 8 . . 2 5 , 3 가
 , 2
 (Table 6). , 3 , 2
 (Table 6). 3
 1
 , 2 ,
 (IVb & V)
 , N1
 가
 , N2 , ,
 ,
 56
 (Table 7). 4 1
 , 가 가
 , ,
 . 1
 가
 가 3 4 , TNM
 가 (Table 7). 2
 3 . Nevin
 , TNM N1 N2 T2 , 가 가

- radical surgery for carcinoma of the gallbladder according to the TNM stage. *Surgery* 1996;120:816-822.
- 3) Fong Y, Heffernan N, Blumgart LH. Gallbladder carcinoma discovered during laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Aggressive resection is beneficial. *Cancer* 1998;83:423-427.
 - 4) Fleming ID, Cooper JS, Hensen DE, et al. *AJCC cancer staging manual*, 5th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven Publishers; 1997.
 - 5) Nevin JE, Moran TJ, Kay S, King R. Carcinoma of the gallbladder. Staging, treatment, and prognosis. *Cancer* 1976;37:141-148.
 - 6) Donohue JH, Nagorney DM, Grant CS, Tsushima K, Ilstrup DM, Adson MA. Carcinoma of the gallbladder. Does radical resection improve outcome? *Arch Surg* 1990;125:237-241.
 - 7) Paolucci V. Port site recurrences after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Surg* 2001;8:535-543.
 - 8) Donohue JH. Present status of the diagnosis and treatment of gallbladder carcinoma. *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Surg* 2000;8:530-534.
 - 9) Donohue JH, Stewart AK, Menck HR. The national cancer data base report on carcinoma of the gallbladder, 1989-1995. *Cancer* 1998;83:2618-2628.
 - 10) Suzuki K, Kimura T, Ogawa H. Long-term prognosis of gallbladder cancer diagnosed after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Surg Endosc* 2000;14:712-716.
 - 11) Yoshida T, Matsumoto T, Sasaki A, et al. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy in the treatment of patients with gallbladder cancer. *J Am Coll Surg* 2000;191:158-163.
 - 12) Whalen GF, Bird I, Tanski W, Russell JC, Clive J. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy does not demonstrably decrease survival of patients with serendipitously treated gallbladder cancer. *J Am Coll Surg* 2001;192:189-195.
 - 13) Ogura Y, Mizumoto R, Isaji S, Kusuda T, Matsuda S, Tabata M. Radical operations for carcinoma of the gallbladder: Present Status in Japan. *World J Surg* 1991;15:337-343.
 - 14) Wakai T, Shirai Y, Yokoyama N, Nagakura S, Watanabe H, Hatakeyama K. Early gallbladder carcinoma does not warrant radical resection. *Br J Surg* 2001;88(5):675-678.
 - 15) Frauenschuh D, Greim R, Kraas E. How to proceed in patients with carcinoma detected after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Langenbeck's Arch Surg* 2000;385:495-500.
 - 16) Box JC, Edge SB. Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy and unsuspected gallbladder carcinoma. *Semin Surg Oncol* 1999;16:327-331.
 - 17) Chijiwa K, Nakano K, Ueda J, et al. Surgical treatment of patients with T2 gallbladder carcinoma invading the subserosal layer. *J Am Coll Surg* 2001;192:600-607.
 - 18) Kondo S, Nimura N, Hayakawa J, Kamiya M, Nagino M, Uesaka. Regional and para-aortic lymphadenectomy in radical surgery for advanced gallbladder carcinoma. *Br J Surg* 2000;87:418-422.
 - 19) Houry S, Barrier A, Huguier M. Irradiation therapy for gallbladder carcinoma: recent advances. *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Surg* 2001;8:518-524.
-